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## REPORT OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

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The Kansas Academy of Science was made a co-ordinate branch of the State Board of Agriculture by the laws of 1873.

Nearly all of the members of the Society have contributed something in the interests of science.

Prof. B. F. Mudge, who has been collecting for Prof. Marsh, of Yale, has found many new and rare specimens, which have not yet been determined.

Prof. J. H. Carruth has added to his catalogue of plants. He has been greatly assisted by Lieut. Wilcox of Fort Leavenworth, Miss Wright of Irving, Mr. Watson of Ellis, Mr. Popenoe, and others, who have contributed many new and important specimens.

Prof. Frank H. Snow, of the State University, has continued his observations on the "Birds of Kansas;" and Mr. E. A. Popenoe presents for the first time a list of the Coleoptera of Kansas.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

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The seventh annual meeting of the Society was held in the House of Representatives, at Topeka, on October 5th and 6th. The attendance was larger, and the interest greater than at any previous meeting.

Among the transactions of the Society the following are of public interest :

A committee, consisting of A. Gray, B. F. Mudge, and E. A. Popenoe, were appointed "to secure such a modification of the game laws of Kansas, as shall allow the killing of any birds at any time by authorized parties for scientific purposes."

Prof. Frank H. Snow was appointed to make a report on the ravages and extent of the locust, its means of extermination, together with any other information which may be considered of value to the citizens of the State.

The following papers were read :

Brachiospongia, by Prof. W. C. Hovey.

Tin and Tin Salts, by Prof. W. K. Kedzie.

Elementary Sounds of the English Language, by Prof. J. H. Carruth.

On the Priestly Centennial, by Prof. W. K. Kedzie.

Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of Kansas ( continued from last year ), by Prof. Frank H. Snow.

The Pliocene Formation of Kansas, by Prof. B. F. Mudge.

Artificial Organic Compounds, by Miss Jennie M. Detmers.

The Water supply of Kansas, by W. Tweeddale.

Additions to the Catalogue of Kansas Birds, with remarks on the fertility of the Hybrid Woodpecker ( *Colaptes hybridus* ), by Prof. Frank H. Snow.

New and Rare Forms of Fossil Fish from Kansas, by Prof. B. F. Mudge.

Analysis of Clays from different parts of Kansas, by Dr. Wm. H. Saunders.

Additions to the Catalogue of Kansas Plants (continued from last year), by Prof. J. H. Carruth.

Notes from the Zoological Laboratory of the University of Kansas, by Prof. F. H. Snow.

A Mad Stone in Kansas City, by John D. Parker.

A Preliminary List of the Coleoptera of Kansas, by Edwin A. Popenoe.

Observations on the use of the Antennæ of *Polyphylla variolosa* (Harris), by Prof. F. H. Snow.

The Study of Natural History as a Disciplinary Power, by Prof. W. Wheeler.

The Importance of a Geological Survey of Kansas, by Prof. B. F. Mudge.

Geological Features of the Lower Neosho Valley in Kansas, by W. S. Newlon.

On Determining the Solubilities of Metallic Salts, by Prof. G. E. Patrick.

Disappearance of the Prairie Dog from Kansas, by Prof. B. F. Mudge.

Suggestions on the True Theory of Number, by Prof. F. W. Bardwell.

#### OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the current year :

President—Frank H. Snow, Lawrence.

Vice-Presidents—B. F. Mudge, Manhattan ; John D. Parker, Wyandotte.

Secretary—John Wherrell, Leavenworth.

Treasurer—Robert J. Brown, Leavenworth.

Curators—Frank H. Snow, Lawrence ; Edwin A. Popenoe, Topeka ; W. K. Kedzie, Manhattan.

#### COMMISSIONS.

Geology—H. C. Hovey, Kansas City ; B. F. Mudge, Manhattan.

Entomology—Frank H. Snow, Lawrence ; Edwin A. Popenoe, Topeka.

Language—D. H. Robinson, Lawrence ; J. H. Lee, Manhattan.

Ethnology—H. B. Norton, Emporia.

Engineering—F. W. Bardwell, Lawrence.

Meteorology—John D. Parker, Wyandotte.

Botany—J. H. Carruth, Lawrence ; John Wherrell, Leavenworth.

Mineralogy—W. K. Kedzie, Manhattan.

Chemistry—G. E. Patrick, Lawrence.

Mammalia—M. V. B. Knox, Baldwin City.

The Society adjourned to meet at Topeka—the time of meeting to announce.

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## SUGGESTIONS OF THE TRUE THEORY OF NUMBER.

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BY F. W. BARDWELL.

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No one will question the importance of a correct theory of number, though many may be surprised at the suggestion that the current theories are imperfect in any important feature.

It is however true that there is a widespread dissatisfaction with the books which treat of the elements of number; that there are frequent changes in the text-books used in the schools; and that